GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3505
ANSWERED ON:17.04.2000
REDUCTION IN TELEPHONE TARIFF
P.D. ELANGOVAN;T.T.V. DHINAKARAN

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to reduce the existing Telephone tariffs for STD and ISD calls;

(b)whether the Government have any specific plans to increase the number of Cellular telephone/Mobile telephone users in the Country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of income generated through private companies participation in the field of telecommunications network to the Government?.

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI. TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) The powers to fix/revise tariffs for various telecom services have been transferred to Telecom Regulatory Authority of India by virtue of Sec. 11(2) of the TRAI Act, 1997.Accordingly the TRAI notified the Telecom Tariff Order 1999 on 15.03.99 wherein STD and ISD rates have been reduced by 20% and 21% respectively in the first year. The Department of Telecom services, as one of the service operator has implemented the above reductions.

(b) and (c): With a view to increasing the number of Cellular Telephones, Government has introduced private participation in provision of Cellular Mobile Telephone Services for which 42 licences have been granted initially. Licences have also been granted to MTNL and the Department of Telecom Services to operate these services.

(d) The details of the income for the period from 1994-95 to 1999-2000 are enclosed in Annexure.
STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PART(d) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION No: 3505 FOR 17TH APRIL, REGARDING REDUCTION IN TELEPHONE TARIFF.

Annexure

STATEMENT LICENCEE FEE COLLECTED (During each financial year)

YEAR	AMOUNT (Rs. in crores)
1994-95	5.39
1995-96	1360.38
1996-97	1249.40
1997-98	2011.79
1998-99	742.59
1999-2000	2680.05
TOTAL	8049.60